

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for operating an internal combustion engine with an electrically openable and closable fuel injector (18), wherein the holding current for an open valve (18) is switched from a standard value to a higher value in certain operating states of the internal combustion engine, and it is reset to the standard value when the certain operating condition has ended, wherein the holding current for the open valve is switched from the higher value to the standard value when the number of injections carried out with the higher value of the holding current exceeds a maximum value.
2. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein, during a start procedure of the internal combustion engine, the holding current for the open valve is switched from the standard value to the higher value, and it is reset to the standard value upon transition to normal operation.
3. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein, when an overrun condition ends, the holding current for the open valve is switched from the standard value to the higher value, and it is reset to the standard value upon transition to normal operation.
4. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein, when a fault condition “maximum delivery by the high pressure pump HDP 46”

occurs, the holding current for the open valve is switched from the standard value to the higher value, and, when the fault is eliminated, the higher value is reset to the standard value.

5. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the switch between the standard value and the higher value takes place within one injection cycle.

6. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the holding current for the open valve is switched from the higher value to the standard value when a the rail pressure falls below a lower threshold.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)